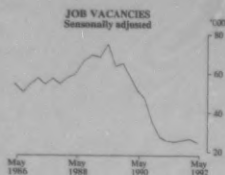


# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 2 July 1992

## *The week in statistics ...*

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## Job vacancies stay at low level

The estimated number of job vacancies decreased by 6.9 per cent to 24,800 (seasonally adjusted) in the three months to May 1992. In the twelve months to May, the reported number of job vacancies declined by 3.4 per cent.

The States in which the number of job vacancies decreased in this quarter were New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia.

Private sector vacancies in May 1992 were 15,600 in original terms — a decrease of 18.3 per cent since February 1992. In contrast the public sector vacancies were 8,700 — a slight rise from the February estimate of 8,500.

The job vacancy rate (the number of job vacancies expressed as a percentage of the number of employees plus job vacancies) for Australia fell to 0.42 per cent compared with 0.46 per cent for February 1992 and 0.43 per cent for May 1991. The present rate is the same as in November 1991.

### JOB VACANCIES

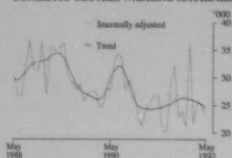
	At 21 February 1992 To nearest 100	At 15 May 1992 To nearest 100	Percentage change
Original —			
Private sector	19,100	15,600	-18.3
Public sector	8,500	8,700	2.5
All sectors	27,600	24,300	-11.9
New South Wales	10,600	6,500	-38.9
Victoria	6,700	5,800	-13.3
Queensland	5,300	5,100	-4.6
South Australia	1,500	1,400	-3.3
Western Australia	1,400	3,200	139.0
Tasmania	600	600	1.8
Northern Territory	400	400	0.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,200	1,300	12.3
Australia	27,600	24,300	-11.9
Seasonally adjusted —			
Australia	26,600	24,800	-6.9

### Overtime

The proportion of employees working overtime in May 1992 was 15.7 per cent (seasonally adjusted) down 2.9 per cent on February, while the estimate of average weekly overtime hours per employee working overtime increased slightly over the same period by 0.8 per cent to 7.00 hours.

For further information, order the publication *Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia* (6354.0), or contact Errol Preston (06) 252 6511.

DOMESTIC CLOTHES WASHING MACHINES



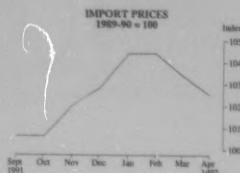
## Manufacturing production in May

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)* contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-five seasonally adjusted). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten *Manufacturing Production Bulletins*.

In the table below, the 'previous year' column is a generally more reliable guide to trends, but should be read in conjunction with the more detailed data presented in the monthly publications, as production of manufacturing commodities can vary quite significantly on a month-to-month basis, even after seasonal adjustment.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION  
MAY 1992  
Seasonally adjusted, percentage change

Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	-7.8	30.0
Petrol-rotary type lawn mowers	-3.7	28.8
Woven cotton fabric (including towelling)	-17.9	26.3
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	-7.7	13.6
Chocolate based confectionery	-10.0	9.3
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	5.1	6.9
Television sets	2.3	2.2
Electricity	-0.1	1.4
Gas available for issue through mains	0.0	0.1
Textile floor coverings	-5.4	0.1
Cotton yarn	-20.9	-0.6
Domestic refrigerators	10.7	-2.3
Woven man-made fibre fabric	-16.3	-2.5
Portland cement	-4.6	-4.5
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	16.3	-5.0
Sulphuric acid; oleum	10.2	-5.4
Other confectionery	-5.2	-5.4
Cigarettes and tobacco	30.3	-6.1
Wool yarn	7.4	-6.8
Clay bricks	-3.9	-8.6
Beer	-4.2	-9.7
Motor vehicles for goods and materials	-1.7	-10.3
Electric motors	-5.4	-11.0
Domestic clothes washing machines	-5.8	-12.0
Cars and station wagons	8.4	-13.0



## Import prices fall in April

The Import Price Index fell by 0.9 per cent in April 1992.

The main contributors to the price fall were road vehicles, and textile yarns, fabrics and related products.

The value of the Australian dollar rose against the major trading currencies during April, contributing to the overall fall in the index.

### IMPORT PRICES, APRIL 1992

Selected items	Percentage change from previous month
Crude materials	1.6
Food and live animals	1.1
Machinery and transport equipment	-0.9
Chemical products	-1.1
Other commodities and transactions	-1.6
Manufactured goods	-1.6
All items	-0.9

For further information, order the publication Import Price Index, Australia (6414.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

## Motor vehicle census confirms an ageing fleet

The number of vehicles on register in Australia in September 1991 was nearly 10.1 million, an increase of 7.2 per cent (680,911 vehicles) since the previous ABS Census of Motor Vehicles in 1988.

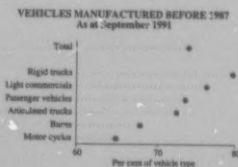
Nevertheless, the average age of all vehicles at September 1991 was 9.8 years, an increase of 0.7 years since 1988, indicating that people are now holding on to their vehicles longer.

The Motor Vehicle Census also shows that the number of vehicles per 1,000 of population, increased to 583 in 1991 compared with 567 in 1988.

The level of vehicle ownership of passenger vehicles was highest in South Australia with 502 per 1,000 of population, followed by Victoria with 497 and Tasmania with 485. Northern Territory recorded the lowest vehicle ownership with 331 vehicles per 1,000 of population.

### REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION September 1991

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Passenger vehicles	421	497	420	502	468	485	331	470	453
Trucks	22	25	24	27	33	35	23	12	25
Other	71	86	107	82	119	119	150	58	88
Motor cycles	12	16	20	22	23	13	27	16	16
Total	526	623	570	633	643	652	531	556	583



The top five manufacturers accounted for more than 77 per cent (6.1 million) passenger vehicles on register. The following table shows registration details for the top five makes.

REGISTERED PASSENGER VEHICLES  
September 1991

Make	Number ('000)	Market share (%)
Ford	1,817	23
Holden	1,762	22
Toyota	1,161	15
Nissan	775	10
Mitsubishi	588	8
Other	1,751	22
Total	7,853	100

Nearly 65 per cent (6.5 million) of all vehicles still use leaded petrol while 27 per cent use unleaded petrol. Diesel fuel was used in 6.1 per cent of vehicles; less than 0.5 per cent use liquid petroleum gas.

Among longer-term trends identified in the Census, the number of motor cycles registered declined by 3.1 per cent in the fifteen years to 1991. Over the same period, passenger vehicle registrations increased by 53.9 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *Motor Vehicle Census, Australia* (9309.0), or contact John Pratten on (06) 252 6772.

## Exports of live sheep rise sharply

Exports of live sheep for March 1992 rose 52.2 per cent compared with February 1992 and by 113.8 per cent compared with March 1991. The gross value of exports in March was \$13.1 million, up 59.3 per cent on February and 224.5 per cent on March 1991. For nine months ended March 1992, exports of live sheep rose 71.8 per cent.

Livestock slaughtering for the eleven months ended May 1992 increased 1.2 per cent when compared with the same period for 1990-91.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED, MAY 1992  
Percentage change

	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Cattle	-3.2	-13.1
Calves	12.5	-20.2
Sheep	-10.8	-6.5
Lambs	-6.5	-15.8
Pigs	2.3	-0.6

Receipts of taxable wool by brokers and dealers in May 1992 showed a 34.7 per cent decrease compared with May 1991. For the eleven months ended May 1992, receipts fell 18.9 per cent compared with the corresponding period of 1991.

For further information, order the publication *Livestock Products, Australia* (7215.0), or contact Marion Long on (06) 252 5337.

EXPORTS OF LIVE SHEEP



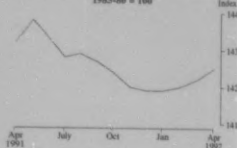
## Building materials — prices remain below 1991 level

The prices of materials used in house building in April 1992 were 0.5 per cent lower than in April 1991. Similarly prices of materials used in other forms of building fell by 0.6 per cent over the same period.

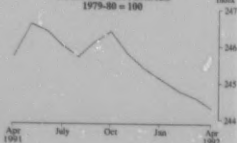
Between March and April 1992, prices of materials used in house building increased 0.2 per cent with timber, sinks and cement sheet recording the main increases.

The prices of materials used in other forms of building decreased a further 0.1 per cent in the month to April 1992; the main decrease was for ready mixed concrete.

PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS  
1985-86 = 100



PRICES OF NON-DWELLING  
BUILDING MATERIALS  
1979-80 = 100



PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, APRIL 1992  
Percentage change

	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.4
Melbourne	0.3	-1.4	-0.3	-2.9
Brisbane	0.3	0.9	-0.1	2.1
Adelaide	-0.1	-2.4	0.0	-1.0
Perth	0.3	0.2	-0.1	-1.2
Hobart	0.7	2.6	0.1	3.0
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.2	-0.5	-0.1	-0.6
Darwin	— Not available —		0.1	1.2
Canberra	0.6	2.0	-0.1	0.8

For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)* and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0)*, or contact Mark Dickson on (06) 252 6198.

## Germany leads the way as tourism diversifies to new markets

In April 1992, the number of overseas visitor arrivals was 203,800, 21 per cent more than in April 1991 (168,000). In seasonally adjusted terms, short-term visitor arrivals were 6 per cent more than in March 1992.

While the major source countries (Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) all showed increases in visitor numbers, there was also significant growth in the number of visitors from Germany, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Thailand (see table on page 7).

*Continued ...*

SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS  
Seasonally adjusted



Germany and Thailand have shown consistent growth in visitor numbers over the last five years, while the majority of growth for Hong Kong and Taiwan has been over the last year.

Compared with April 1991, short-term visitors from Taiwan increased by 188 per cent and from Hong Kong by 94 per cent.

SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS

Country of residence	April				
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Germany	3,500	4,600	5,900	5,900	7,200
Hong Kong	3,700	3,000	4,800	3,300	6,400
Taiwan	1,500	1,100	2,300	1,600	4,600
Thailand	1,700	2,100	2,700	3,200	4,500

In April 1992, short-term visitors from Germany represented 4 per cent of all visitor arrivals; 78 per cent came for the purpose of 'holiday' while 12 per cent came for the purpose of 'visiting relatives'. The most popular destination was New South Wales (51%). The majority of all short-term visitors from Germany were in the 20 to 29 and 30 to 39 age groups, each group comprising 21 per cent of the total.

For further information, order the publication *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia* (3401.0), or contact Robert Chibnall on (06) 252 6671.

## Understanding statistics: a new guide

Most people who need to use ABS statistics in their work or studies have had very little statistical training and many find statistical tables overwhelming and difficult to understand. *Surviving Statistics* addresses these problems by providing 100 pages of explanations, practical examples and actual case studies on the analysis and use of statistics. *Surviving Statistics* also encourages consistency and standards in the use of statistics.

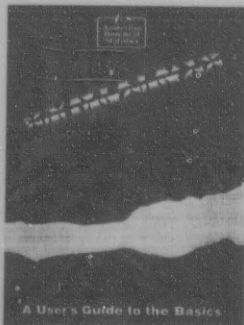
*Surviving Statistics* covers topics such as collecting, organising, graphing, and interpreting data; statistics and the Australian community; and understanding ABS price indexes.

The publication is aimed mainly at helping students and teachers in high schools gain a greater ability to understand and apply statistical data, but it contains considerable information that will be useful for other non-specialist users of statistics.

Included are 20 pages of exercises to be used by those wanting reinforcement of the points outlined in the text. These exercises are designed not only to summarise the topics covered in the chapters but also to encourage thought about the meaning behind the numbers. Answers to the exercises are provided.

The ability to critically select and interpret statistics is an important skill within our society, and is vital for making decisions that affect our lives. *Surviving Statistics* is an excellent resource for developing these skills.

For further information, order the publication *Surviving Statistics, A User's Guide to the Basics* (1332.0), or contact Tania Adami on (02) 268 4697.



## Synopsis of articles, June 1992

4 June 1992

### Signs of recovery in March quarter growth

All three detailed measures of Australia's gross domestic product (GDP) showed moderate growth during the March quarter 1992. The trend estimate of GDP(A), the average of the three measures, rose by 0.6 per cent during the March quarter. The increase in GDP(A) is attributable to rises in the trend estimates of all three components: GDP(I) up 0.7 per cent; GDP(E) up 0.8 per cent; and GDP(P) up 0.4 per cent.

### April trade performance curbs current account deficit

Seasonally adjusted, Australia's balance of payments current account deficit for April 1992 fell \$95 million or 10 per cent on the previous month to \$897 million.

### Net foreign liabilities up again

Net foreign liabilities at 31 March 1992 totalled \$199,312 million. This was an increase of \$6,485 million, or 3.4 per cent, on the position at the end of the December quarter 1991.

### Moderate March quarter rise in industrial production

Industrial production rose moderately (by 1.1%) in the March quarter 1992 in seasonally adjusted constant price terms. In the previous quarter it fell by 0.7 per cent.

### February average weekly earnings

Preliminary estimates for February 1992 show an increase in average weekly ordinary time earnings of 1.7 per cent for full-time adults to \$588.80, up from \$578.80 in November 1991. The increase for males was 1.9 per cent (to \$623.90), with a 2.0 per cent increase for females (to \$524.80).

### Building materials prices steady

Prices of materials used in house building increased a further 0.1 per cent between February and March 1992, while the prices of materials used in other forms of building decreased by 0.1 per cent.

### Company profits up again

Company profits before income tax rose by 13 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms in the March quarter 1992. After two successive quarters of growth in profits, the March quarter estimate of \$3,469 million was 38 per cent higher than the estimate for the March 1991 quarter.

### Import prices fall in March

The Import Price Index fell by 1.0 per cent in March 1992.

### Business stock levels increase and manufacturers' sales improve

The value of stocks owned by private businesses rose by 0.7 per cent between 31 December 1991 and 31 March 1992 in seasonally adjusted 1984-85 price terms. In the same terms, manufacturers' sales in the March quarter were 1.1 per cent higher than in the previous quarter.

### Housing approvals forge ahead

The total number of dwelling units approved (seasonally adjusted) rose by 9.7 per cent in April 1992 following a 6.9 per cent rise in March.

11 June 1992

### New insight into the economy

The ABS has published for the first time, information about the value of financial assets and liabilities for the Australian economy as a whole and of each sector of the economy (e.g. households, corporations, financial institutions, government). In the publication *Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts*, there is also information on the lending and borrowing undertaken by those sectors.

### Divorces increase in 1991

In 1991 there were 45,630 divorces granted throughout Australia, a 7 per cent increase from 1990 (42,635). The crude divorce rate increased from 2.5 per cent per 1,000 population in 1990 to 2.6 per cent in 1991.

### Over 70% of students now stay at school to Year 12

The apparent retention rate to Year 12 schooling increased between 1990 and 1991 in all States and Territories, with the national rate rising from 64 per cent to 71 per cent.

### New book presents the facts for our environment debates

The ABS has launched a first comprehensive reference book on Australia's environment, to coincide with the 'Earth Summit' in Brazil.



18 June 1992

**Male full-time employment falls while unemployment rises**

Seasonally adjusted employment decreased in May 1992 mainly due to a fall in male full-time employment. This decrease was partly offset by a rise in male part-time employment. Increases were also recorded in the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate.

**April bonus for retail trade**

The seasonally adjusted estimate of turnover for retail and selected service establishments rose by 2.9 per cent in April 1992. One possible factor in the increase was the one-off family allowance bonus payment made early in April.

**Detached houses slip back but total housing starts rise**

The number of dwelling units commenced in the March quarter 1992 rose by 2.5 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms, the fourth consecutive quarterly increase. The rise in the March quarter was entirely due to the continuing increase in significance of medium to high density housing (townhouses, flats, apartments, etc.) commencements. Private sector house commencements declined significantly (6.3%).

**Housing finance forges ahead**

The trend in the number of dwelling units financed moved upwards for the fifth successive month in April 1992. The provisional trend estimate for the month of April was 33,167 dwelling units, 1,039 units (3.2%) more than in March 1992 and 7,183 units (27.6%) more than in April 1991.

**Road freight movement down**

Total interstate road freight moved by major operators during March quarter 1992 was 9.6 per cent lower than in December quarter 1991. This drop is in line with previous years, when the March quarter figures typically were lower than those reported in the previous December quarter.

25 June 1992

**Average weekly earnings increase**

In the three months to February 1992 there was a 1.8 per cent increase in average weekly ordinary time earnings for full-time adult persons.

**Export prices rise**

Export prices rose by 0.7 per cent between March and April 1992, with about 40 per cent of the items in the index recording price increases.

**House prices: Melbourne out of step**

The Australian index for established house prices fell by 0.6 per cent in the March quarter 1992, despite rises in seven of the eight capital cities. The decrease of 4.5 per cent in the Melbourne index was sufficient to offset the rises in the other capitals. The largest increases occurred in Brisbane and Adelaide (2.7%), while Sydney experienced the smallest rise (0.1%).

**Manufacturing prices in April**

The price indexes for materials used in manufacturing and for articles produced rose slightly between March and April 1992.

**Materials prices up 0.4%**

The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries increased by 0.4 per cent between March and April 1992.

**Prices of articles produced up 0.2%**

The price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry rose 0.2 per cent in April 1992.

**Business R&D investment lags**

Business expenditure on research and development (R&D) was estimated to be \$2,017 million in 1990-91, an increase of 2 per cent at current prices over the two year period from 1989-90. However in constant price terms (average 1984-85 prices) the estimated commitment by businesses to R&D decreased by 2 per cent since 1989-90 to \$1,359 million.

**Major labour reference updated**

An overview of the wealth of labour statistics produced by the ABS is provided in the latest edition of *Labour Statistics, Australia*, which has just been released.

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

### ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

(06) 252 6627  
(06) 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld (07) 222 6351  
WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 432 111

## Cash management trusts in brief ...

The weighted average net yield of cash management trusts was 6.20 per cent for May 1992. This represents a 0.29 per cent decrease on the April 1992 yield of 6.49 per cent and is significantly lower than the May 1991 yield of 10.20 per cent. The 90-day bank bill rate also fell during May 1992 to stand at 6.50 per cent.

At the end of May 1992 the value of units on issue was the lowest since December 1990. However, during the month new applications increased by \$159.6 million (18.5%) and redemptions decreased by \$145.2 million (11.9%).

Source: *Cash Management Trusts, Australia, May 1992* (5635.0).

## All the week's releases: 24 to 30 June

### General

Publications Advice, 26 June 1992 (1105.0; free — over the counter)  
Publications Advice, 30 June 1992 (1105.0; free — over the counter)  
Statistics Weekly, 25 June 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)  
Australian Economic Indicators, June 1992 (1350.0; \$26.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, June 1992 (1305.1; \$14.00)  
Economic Indicators, NSW, June 1992 (1307.1; \$5.50)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., June 1992 (1303.2; \$10.50)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, June 1992 (1304.3; \$9.50)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, WA, June 1992 (1305.5; \$10.50)  
Economic Indicators, WA, June 1992 (1307.5; \$6.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, SA, June 1992 (1303.4; \$9.50)

### Demography

Marriages, Aust., 1991 (3306.0; \$12.00)  
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., April 1992 (3401.0; \$6.50)  
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., March Qtr 1992 (3402.0; \$14.00)

### Social statistics

A Guide to Australian Social Statistics, 1992 (4160.0; \$25.00) — *new issue*

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 1990-91 (5220.0; \$21.00)  
Cash Management Trusts, Aust., May 1992 (5635.0; \$6.00)  
Personal Finance, Aust., April 1992 (5642.0; \$6.00)  
Public Unit Trusts, Aust., March Qtr 1992 (5645.0; \$10.50)  
Assets and Liabilities of Friendly Societies, Aust., March Qtr 1992 (5660.0; \$10.50)

### Labour statistics and prices

Labour Statistics in Brief, 1992 (6104.0; free)  
The Labour Force, Aust., May 1992 (6203.0; \$16.00)  
Industrial Disputes, Aust., 1991 (6322.0; \$15.00)  
Job Vacancies and Overtime, Aust., May 1992 (6354.0; \$12.00)  
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, April 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)  
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, April 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)  
Import Price Index, Aust., April 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)  
The Labour Force, Qld, May 1992 (6201.3; \$16.00)

### Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., May 1992 (7215.0; \$7.50)

## Subscriptions

To subscribe to *Statistics Weekly* or any other ABS printed publication, phone the ABS Subscription Service toll-free on (008) 020608, or contact Information Services at any of the offices listed at left.

## Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Rad Leovic  
Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
(06) 252 6104

## Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust., May 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, April 1992 (8357.0; \$8.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Metal Products, April 1992 (8367.0; \$6.00)  
Tourist Accommodation, Vic., March Qtr 1992 (8635.2; \$20.00)  
Building Approvals, Vic., May 1992 (8731.2; \$10.50)  
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., April 1992 (8741.2; \$10.50)  
Building Activity, Vic., March Qtr 1992 (8752.2; \$10.50)  
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, WA, April 1992 (8741.5; \$10.50)  
Building Approvals, SA, May 1992 (8731.4; \$10.50)  
Building Activity, NT, March Qtr 1992 (8752.7; \$8.00)

## Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Vic., May 1992 (9303.2; \$10.50)  
Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, May 1992 (9303.5; \$7.50)

## Calendar of key releases

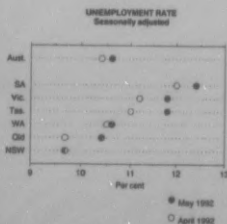
Expected releases over the fortnight to 14 July 1992

### July

- 1 Balance of Payments, Australia, May 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)  
Building Approvals, Australia, May 1992 (8731.0; \$13.00)  
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, May 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)
- 9 The Labour Force, Australia, June 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)  
The Labour Force, Australia — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, June 1992 (6271.0; \$65.00)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 30 June 1992



**Statistics Weekly**  
2 July 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 91)*	-25.6	-17.7	-10.8	-3.6	1.1	-51.4	n.a.	n.a.	-17.4
Retail turnover (Apr. 92) (trend estimate)	6.1	4.2	8.0	-0.4	9.3	4.3	n.a.	8.2	5.8
New motor vehicle registrations (Apr. 92)†	11.2	14.8	-19.7	-3.1	5.6	-6.3	-6.5	-13.9	2.1
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Apr. 92)	31.0	29.8	19.9	14.5	42.8	3.2	319.2	149.2	30.4
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr 91)	-25.5	-25.4	4.4	-29.6	-12.9	3.4	4.3	3.4	-18.5
Employed persons (May 92)*	-1.2	-1.9	2.5	-8.3	0.9	-3.3	6.8	0.9	-0.7
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 92)	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.1	2.6	1.7
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Feb. 92)	5.5	3.4	3.2	5.3	5.1	3.2	5.7	5.3	4.4
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Dec. qtr 91)	3.2	3.6	10.1	-2.6	8.3	3.6	2.8	2.9	5.1

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

## Key national indicators – consolidated to 30 June 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	64,762	0.6	0.8
<b>Industrial activity</b>						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	4,944	5,565	-2.7	-21.3
Expected new capital expenditure — 1984-85 prices	"	Three months to June 92	3,898	4,386	-2.3	-18.0
Retail turnover — current prices	"	Apr. 92	6,727	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	7,729	8,040	2.9	9.5
New motor vehicle registrations (e)	no.	Apr. 92	14,755	15,531	1.1	2.1
Dwelling unit approvals (e)	"	Apr. 92	39,263	42,734	-12.6	2.1
Value of all building approvals (e)	\$m	Apr. 92	13,100	13,934	9.7	35.8
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	Dec. qtr 91	1,677	1,792	4.1	18.2
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	5,977.4	5,675.6	-3.6	-18.5
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	3,846.5	3,652.3	-3.9	-16.8
Expected manufacturers' sales — 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	32,884	35,130	1.8	0.6
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Three months to June 92	22,814	24,284	1.1	-1.3
			35,070	n.a.	n.a.	-2.0
<b>Labour</b>						
Employed persons	'000	May 92	7,687.5	7,663.0	-0.1	-0.7
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.7	10.6	0.2	1.2
Participation rate †	"	"	63.0	62.7	0.0	-0.6
Job vacancies	'000	May 92	24.3	24.8	-6.9	-3.4
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.09	1.10	-1.5	-1.7
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>						
Consumer price index 1989-90 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 92	107.6	n.a.	0.0	1.7
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries 1984-85 = 100.0		Apr. 92	120.5	n.a.	0.4	2.5
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry 1988-89 = 100.0		Apr. 92	111.8	n.a.	0.2	1.2
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	2,779	3,469	12.8	37.7
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Feb. 92	589.20	n.a.	1.8	4.4
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Mar. 92	7.55	n.a.	0.05	-4.05
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	9.90	n.a.	-0.15	-1.50
<b>Balance of payments</b>						
Exports of merchandise (e)	\$m	Apr. 92	4,590	4,762	5.4	8.0
Imports of merchandise (e)	"	"	4,098	4,327	0.2	4.5
Balance on merchandise trade (c) (e)	"	"	492	435	116.4	62.9
Balance of goods and services (c) (e)	"	"	342	285	7025	850
Balance on current account (c) (e)	"	"	-118	-897	9.6	-32.3
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	100.2	2.8	0.6
<b>Foreign investment</b>						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>						
\$US (e)	per \$A	Apr. 92	0.7627	n.a.	0.5	-2.2
Trade weighted index (e)	May 1970 = 100.0	"	58.1	n.a.	0.3	-2.5
<b>Other indicators</b>						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Dec. 91	17.4	n.a.	0.3	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Apr. 92	204	219	6.2	19.7

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 1 July 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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